

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
CATARACT TREATMENT
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that tea extract injections help delay the onset of cataract;
- (b) if so, the research undertaken in this regard especially in the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB); and
- (c) the action proposed to propagate the findings for preventing blindness especially in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Tea has been shown to have anti-oxidative property and thus may help prevent cataract formation.
- (b) Experiments carried out on rats at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), indicate the cataract progression was significantly slowed down following injection of extracts of black and green tea. Green tea appears to have better effect than the black tea. Treatment with laser is useful in some cases of glaucoma, retinal diseases and post-operative opacity following cataract surgery.
- (c) Effect of tea on formation or progression of cataract in humans has not yet been established. Appropriate action will be taken only after usefulness of tea in preventing progression of cataract is established.